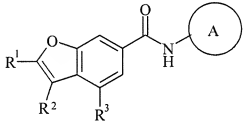
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A compound of formula **(I)** or a salt or an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester or amide thereof, containing a carboxy or a hydroxy group,



(I)

wherein:

Ring A is pyridin-2-yl or thiazol-2-yl; wherein said pyridin-2-yl or thiazol-2-yl is optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^4;

one of $\mathbf{R^1}$ and $\mathbf{R^2}$ is hydrogen and the other is hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl; wherein R^1 and R^2 are optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^5;

$\mathbf{R^3}$ is selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclyloxy and heterocyclyloxy; wherein R^3 is optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^6; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen is optionally substituted by C_{1-4}alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^4}$ is selected from halo, carboxy and C_{1-4}alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^5}$ and $\mathbf{R^6}$ are independently selected from halo, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, *N*,*N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclyloxy, heterocyclyloxy and carbocyclylidenyl; wherein R^5 and R^6 are independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^7; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen is optionally substituted by C_{1-4}alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^7}$ is selected from halo, carboxy, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, diethylamino and *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylamino.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The compound according to Claim 1 or a salt or an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester or amide thereof, containing a carboxy or a hydroxy group, wherein Ring **A** is unsubstituted or is substituted by carboxy.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The compound according to Claim 2 or a salt or an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester or amide thereof, containing a carboxy or a hydroxy group, wherein one of $\mathbf{R^1}$ and $\mathbf{R^2}$ is hydrogen and the other is hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The compound according Claim 1 or a salt or an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester or amide thereof, containing a carboxy or a hydroxy group, wherein $\mathbf{R^3}$ is selected from C_{1-4}alkoxy; wherein $\mathbf{R^3}$ is optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from $\mathbf{R^6}$.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The compound according to Claim 1 or a salt or an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester or amide thereof, containing a carboxy or a hydroxy group, wherein $\mathbf{R^3}$ is selected from 2-fluorobenzyloxy, 5-methylisoxazol-3-ylmethoxy and 2-thien-3-ylethoxy.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A compound according to Claim 1 or a salt or an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester or amide thereof, containing a carboxy or a hydroxy group, selected from:

2-methyl-4-isobutoxy-6-[*N*-(5-carboxypyridin-2-yl)carbamoyl]benzofuran;

2-methyl-4-(2-fluorophenylmethoxy)-6-[*N*-(5-carboxypyridin-2-yl)carbamoyl]benzofuran;

2-methyl-4-isobutoxy-6-[*N*-(5-carboxythiazol-2-yl)carbamoyl]benzofuran;

2-methyl-4-(5-methylisoxazol-3-ylmethoxy)-6-[*N*-(5-carboxypyridin-2-yl)carbamoyl]benzofuran;

4-(2-fluorophenylmethoxy)-6-[*N*-(5-carboxypyridin-2-yl)carbamoyl]benzofuran;

4-(5-methylisoxazol-3-ylmethoxy)-6-[*N*-(5-carboxypyridin-2-yl)carbamoyl]benzofuran;

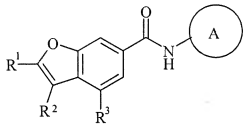
2-methyl-4-(thien-2-ylethoxy)-6-[*N*-(5-carboxypyridin-2-yl)carbamoyl]benzofuran; and

2-methyl-4-isobutoxy-6-[*N*-(thiazol-2-yl)carbamoyl]benzofuran.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, or a salt or an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester or amide thereof, containing a carboxy or a hydroxy group, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of treating a disease mediated through glucokinase, comprising administering an effective amount of a compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 6 or a salt or an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester or amide thereof, containing a carboxy or a hydroxy group,.

Claim 9 (currently amended and withdrawn): A method for preparing a compound of formula **(I)** or a salt or an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester or amide thereof, containing a carboxy or a hydroxy group:



(I)

wherein:

Ring A is pyridin-2-yl or thiazol-2-yl; wherein said pyridin-2-yl or thiazol-2-yl is optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^4;

one of $\mathbf{R^1}$ and $\mathbf{R^2}$ is hydrogen and the other is hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl; wherein R^1 and R^2 are optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^5;

$\mathbf{R^3}$ is selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclyloxy and heterocyclyloxy; wherein R^3 is optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^6; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen is optionally substituted by C_{1-4}alkyl;

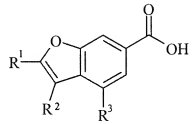
$\mathbf{R^4}$ is selected from halo, carboxy and C_{1-4}alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^5}$ and $\mathbf{R^6}$ are independently selected from halo, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, *N*,*N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclyloxy, heterocyclyloxy and carbocyclylidenyl; wherein R^5 and R^6 are independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^7; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen is optionally substituted by C_{1-4}alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^7}$ is selected from halo, carboxy, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, diethylamino and *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylamino;

wherein the method comprises:

Process 1): reacting an acid of formula **(II)**:

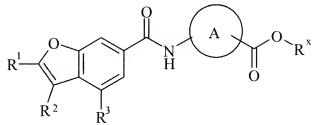


(II)

or an activated derivative thereof; with a compound of formula **(III)**; or

(III)

Process 2) for compounds of formula **(I)** wherein R^4 is carboxy; deprotecting a compound of formula **(III)**:



(III)

wherein $\mathbf{R^x}$-OC(O) is an ester group and $\mathbf{R^x}$ is selected from C_{1-6} alkyl and benzyl;

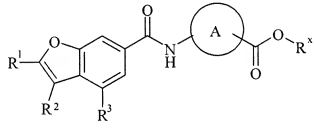
and optionally:

i) converting a compound of the formula **(I)** into another compound of the formula **(I)**; and/or

ii) removing any protecting groups; and/or

iii) forming a salt or an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester or amide thereof.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): A compound of formula (III):



(III)

wherein:

$\mathbf{R^x}$-OC(O) is an ester group and $\mathbf{R^x}$ is selected from C_{1-6} alkyl and benzyl;

Ring A is pyridin-2-yl or thiazol-2-yl; wherein said pyridin-2-yl or thiazol-2-yl is optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^4;

one of $\mathbf{R^1}$ and $\mathbf{R^2}$ is hydrogen and the other is hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl; wherein R^1 and R^2 are optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^5;

$\mathbf{R^3}$ is selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclyloxy and heterocyclyloxy; wherein R^3 is optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^6; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen is optionally substituted by C_{1-4}alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^4}$ is selected from halo, carboxy and C_{1-4}alkyl;

$\mathbf{R^5}$ and $\mathbf{R^6}$ are independently selected from halo, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclyloxy, heterocyclyloxy and carbocyclylidenyl; wherein R^5 and R^6 are independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^7; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen is optionally substituted by C_{1-4}alkyl;

$\mathbf{R}^7$ is selected from halo, carboxy, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, diethylamino and *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylamino.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The method of claim 9, wherein $\mathbf{R}^x$ is selected from methyl and ethyl.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The compound of claim 10, wherein $\mathbf{R}^x$ is selected from methyl and ethyl.